LAW OFFICES

DRAWER 4 LAW PRACTICE

71 2009 085. 04111

Abraham Lincoln's Law Practice

Law Offices

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

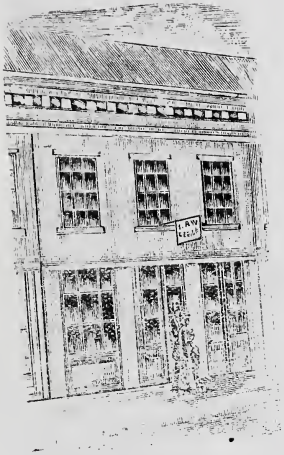
71.2009.085.04111

STUART AND LINCOLN

The Sangamon Journal at Springfield Ill
in its paper for April 15 1837,
displayed the advertising card.

J.T. STUART AND A. LINCOLN

ATTORNEYS and Counsellors at Law, will practice,
conjointly, in the courts of this Judicial Circuit.—
Office No 4 Hoffmans Row, up stairs.
Springfield, April 12, 1837



Law Office of Ottea T. and Lucius Ayer 1837.
no 109 North Street.

ER.

Peabody Family.

ews.

NG SERMON.

m, clear and beautiful. A
wide landscape. The In-
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and Farmer Oliver having
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s a mighty running to and
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d for pins, of which there
a great lack. The horses
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one member of the family
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giving sermon at the coun-

ody junior somewhere and
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rith the popular character
William Peabody and wife;
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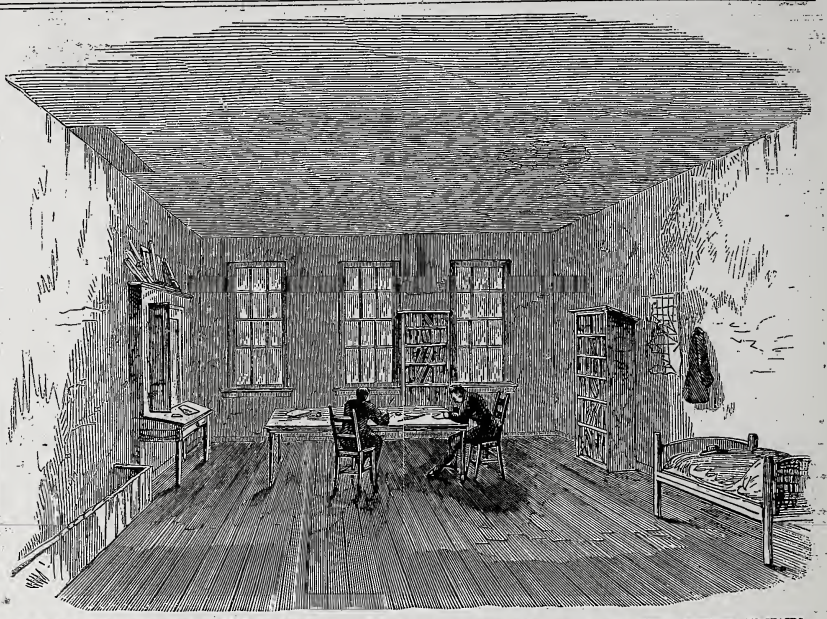
after all, rolled Mrs. Car-
nan and coachman without.
, walked the garden wall,
t on his thanksgiving suit
ly the family, and join his

tive and devotional ob



THE FIRST LAW OFFICE RENTED IN 1837 BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT ELECT, IN HOFFMAN'S ROW, THIRD DIVISION, UP-STAIRS, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—SEE PAGE 74.

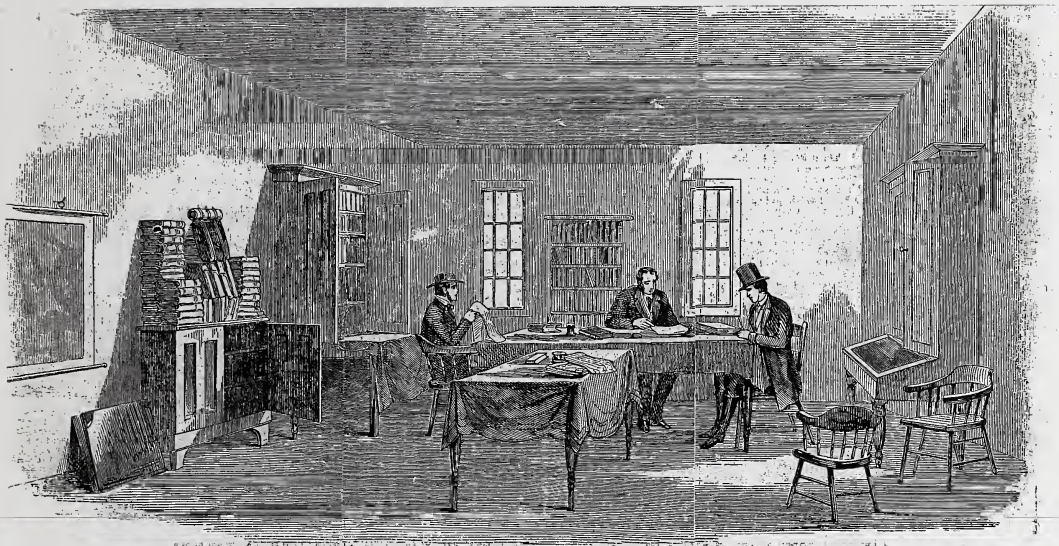
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FIRST LAW OFFICE, HOFFMAN'S ROW, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

When Abraham Lincoln first went to Springfield, nearly thirty years ago, he ran for the Legislature, was elected, and served several terms. In 1837 he opened a law office under the firm of Stuart & Lincoln, in Hoffman's Row. This house, which still stands, is a very humble edifice, and the step from thence to the White House is a stride which even Lincoln at that time but little dreamed of.

Abraham Lincoln's present Law Office, Fifth Street, States Square, Springfield, Ill.

Mr. Lincoln's present law office is situated in Fifth street, west side of State Square. He is in partnership with Mr. Herndon, a lawyer of considerable ability and reputation. We give a sketch of both offices, taken by our special artist. They present a contrast almost as wide as the last step in the career of their occupant from either the one or the other.

within hearing of his voice, seemed, by



THE PRESENT LAW OFFICE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE PRESIDENT ELECT, IN FIFTH STREET, WEST SIDE OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.—SEE PAGE 74.

FACTS FURNISHED BY DR. WILLIAM JAYNE
CONCERNING

LINCOLN'S LAW OFFICES.

"Hoffman's Row" was built in 1835, and consisted of six two-story brick stores, forty-four feet deep, from the North-West Corner of Fifth and Washington Streets, North on Fifth Street.

It was called "Hoffman's Row" because Mr. Herman L. Hoffman, a St. Louis druggist, who was a son-in-law of Major Joseph Klein (at that time the richest man in Springfield) was the largest owner of the Row and it was named for him.

When the State Capitol was moved from Vandalia to Springfield in the Winter of 1836-7, they tore down the old Court House that stood in the public square, to make room for the proposed Capitol Building (now the Sangamon County Court House) and the Court was moved to the lower floor of what is now 109 North Fifth Street, (and occupied by Stuart's Confectionary) and Stuart and Lincoln occupied the second floor as their law office, the first office occupied by Lincoln in Springfield.

After the election of Major John T. Stuart to Congress in 1838, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Lincoln formed a partnership with Judge Stephen T. Logan, under the firm name of Logan and Lincoln, and occupied an office on the third floor of the old Farmer's Bank Building, corner of Sixth and Adams streets, over the United States Court Room, which at that time occupied the second floor of that building. Nathaniel Pope was at that time United States District Judge.

See Nov. 6, 1909

In 1843 this partnership was dissolved and Lincoln took William H. Herndon, at that time a young lawyer, into partnership under the firm name of Lincoln and Herndon, when the office was moved to the second floor over what was then John Irwin's store, 103 South Fifth Street, and what is now the South half of Myers' Brothers Building.

This partnership was only dissolved by Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
Feb. 4, 1909.

(signed) WILLIAM JAYNE

Note: This is an exact copy of the original statement as made by Dr. William Jayne for Edward D. Keys, both of Springfield, Illinois.

HENRY B. RANKIN

510 South Second Street

Springfield, Illinois

July 23, 1925.

Hon. George P. Hambrecht,
Madison, Wisconsin.

My dear Mr. Hambrecht:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th, enclosing copy of notice of your address before the Sunday Evening Club of the 1st Presbyterian Church in February 1922, and a later editorial mention, together with copy of my letter to you of January 6, 1921 and the material furnished you at that time.

Reviewing the latter I have accepted your suggestion to make some additional descriptive mention of the office and of Lincoln as he appeared in it, which I hope may meet with your approval. I have re-written the article omitting the sub-headings. These are proper in a broadside or a newspaper article, but on the pages of a book they detract from the appearance and the continuity of thought.

Allow me further to suggest the addition in a foot note of the wording on the thirteen tablets marking places in Springfield made historic by events in Lincoln's life. If you think this addition would be too lengthy, a foot note might give merely the information as to where the wording of the tablets would be found, in the appendix. If you have no copy of the wording of the tablets and wish it, I can send you the copy.

I appreciate and admire, and thank you for the splendid collection of letters your industry has secured, and their publication in permanent form will be a most valuable addition to Lincolniana.

Your letter and copy of the press notices have interested me very much and I thank you for them.

Most sincerely yours,

(Signed) Henry B. Rankin.

L I N C O L N'S L A W O F F I C E

Of the Lincoln law office, some more intimate recognition of the part it had in Lincoln's life, deserves mention at this time. This office was the center of Lincoln's legal, political and literary activities in this city. Volumes could have been written of what took place there, had there been such a competent, gossiping scribe as Boswell, always present to take notes of what transpired.

The Lincoln law office was up a flight of stairs so narrow that two people walking abreast rubbed elbows. The room was plainly furnished, yet with Lincoln's presence there, and the many friends and callers who thronged it by day, and not infrequently by night, it was the most interesting office royal of all the public rooms I ever was privileged to frequent. It was a plainly furnished back room on the second floor. The two windows looked out on a flat one-story warehouse roof, coated with tar and pebbles. On hot summer days the tar softened, and the breeze, if there happened to be any, wafted a powerful resinous odor into the room.

The office furnishing were far from elaborate. A large table in the middle of the room; two good-sized book-cases with compartments for filing and ample shelving for books - one stood on the west side between the two windows, the other midway on the south wall. The door into the office was fitted on the upper half with a window-sash divided by 8 x 10 glass to furnish from the office what light the entrance-hall had. A rod at the top of this

carried rings attached to a curtain for closing when "no interruption" was desired.

It is now more than sixty years since I passed daily under the swinging sign "Lincoln and Herndon" going up and down the stairway, into and from this back room located in what was then a two story building. This had been the law office of Abraham Lincoln for the last seventeen years he spent in Springfield.

It was my privilege, for several of those later years, to share in that office its routine as a student, and enjoy the personality and instruction of the most remarkable man of this century.

Lincoln, when in this little office, was more easy in manner and unrestrained in all respects than at any other place I ever saw him. Here he was his most genial self and welcomed every class of people who came to call, with his best southern hospitality, for, as he would say, if mention was made of time lost: "They honor me by calling in to see me socially, professionally, or politically and they should not go out thinking less of me than when they came in."

Picture him in his office as he was in 1860. As yet he had almost no grey hairs, his weight was about one hundred and eighty pounds, and his face was clean shaven. Wrinkles across his forehead and the deep curved lines on his cheeks had already marked the man of fifty. His neck was neat and trim, bearing with dignity the head sculptors have since modeled so variously. His body

movements were rather slow, not in the least nervous or impulsive. His manner of reading and conversing was always impressive. He read aloud sometimes and in this, as in his conversation, he spoke slowly. He had the peculiar habit of using his head and neck in reading or public speaking, for gesticulations.

The end of Lincoln's presence at the law office came the evening of February 10th, 1861. I recall Abraham Lincoln's passing that night for the last time out of his office and down the narrow stairway to the street. On the following morning he departed from Springfield on his mission into the strange, strenuous, sacrificial life that has embalmed his memory to forever endure in the Heart of the Ages.

It was a time when dark clouds filled the political and national skies, bursting at last into a storm of bitter hate and bloody war. This had become inevitable. When that hour of need had struck — it was from this office there came a man fully prepared by years of study for those fateful hours. An honest, tall, gentle, strong man -- heroic and sad, who was constitutionally called by his fellow countrymen from this office and placed at the helm of state to preserve our national union. In that time of political turmoil and civil revolution, he guided his country safely through blood and fire and tears with a steady unshaken faith in God and man.

Through those long years of battles his endurance, his fertility of resources, his magnanimity, his patience, were sorely

tried, and never found wanting. Never rash, never vindictive, keeping a kind heart and an open mind, toward friend and foe, he became more firm "in the right, as God gave him to see the right", under each successive disaster.

It was not the opportunity, nor the stress of great occasions, such as the delivery of his speech in the Illinois state capital on "The House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand"; nor the debates with Douglas that followed it; nor the opportunity before a New York audience at the Cooper Institute; that accounts for, or explains the progressive developments of Lincoln.

It was not Salem, Springfield, or Washington; it was neither Stuart, Logan, Herndon, Douglas, Baker, Hardin, or the able men in his cabinet; Seward, Stanton, Chase and others who surrounded him in so many capacities -- both civil and military -- during his presidency, who can have the credit of prominence in the making of Abraham Lincoln; much as these places and some of those men may have contributed to it.

Amid, after and beyond all these influences and those times, and men that he there moved among, and rising beyond all comparisons with them, we clearly discern the unique and exclusive personality of Lincoln himself. Those localities and eminent men have had other partners and students and colleagues, but none other such as Lincoln arose from their associations. The waters of the Sangamon have flowed by the places Lincoln's name has made historic for three quarters of a century since, but they have borne

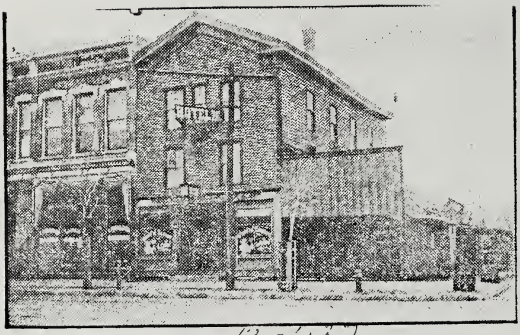
no message of such personality as Lincoln's into the world's wide seas to refresh and inspire the common people of all climes and colors.

No other human personality towers higher in the admiration of mankind, or casts so benign a light upon the character and destiny of our republic. He stands today the most unique and unforgettable figure in our history, and one of the mighty spirits of the race.

Your s Faithfully,

(Signed) Henry B. Rankin

Springfield, Illinois.



(By P. & A. from Chicago Historical Society)

In the drab little building on the right, at Springfield, Ill., Lincoln had law office in his early career.

Ad Announcing Opening Abe Lincoln's Law Office In City Placed On Exhibit

A life time of devotion to the art of collecting rare specimens of historical value has been spent by Ed Cornelius, of Georgetown, who placed the display of relics in the window of the Leath's Furniture store Monday afternoon. The display occupies one whole window and parts of two others. It is believed to be one of the most complete collections in this part of the country owned by one individual.

Many collectors, according to Mr. Cornelius, spend most of their time in specializing on some certain line and their collections are limited to specimens included in that group.

"I have found, however, that a variety of groups not only adds to the interest in the collection by others, but it offers more room for study to the collector and he will find that many secrets of the past are open to him that would not be with one line of endeavor," he said.

Recalls Indian Days.

The array in the windows of the Danville store includes almost everything of any value to a study of the lives in America in the Revolutionary days, and back still farther into the history of the early American Indian in this part of the country. There are guns, arrow points, stone implements, stamps, coins, newspaper clippings, trophies of the hunt, swords, knives and many other objects of interest.

The start of the collection was made in southern Ohio, many years before Mr. Cornelius came to Illinois 32 years ago. Many of the Indian relics date back before the advent of the white man to the wilderness of America. Others are more recent. The variety of guns, currency and stamps relate mostly to the history connected with the building of the United States.

Has Lincoln Ad.

One of the most interesting pieces of local interest is an advertisment clipped from an edition of a Danville newspaper which was an announcement of the opening of a law office by the firm of Lincoln and Lamont, attorneys. This was printed Nov. 10, 1852. The office was opened on the second floor of the Barnums building, over Whitcomb's store, according to the advertisement.

A study of early American Indian life is offered by the implements they used to grind up their grain and in fighting with primitive weapons. There are still many mounds in the vicinity of Danville that have not been opened, according to Mr. Cornelius.

Specimens of mony used during almost every period in the history of United States is included in the collection. There are pieces of Colonial script issued by the individual states before the government was formed, the first issue of legal tender by the government, Civil war greenbacks, confederate money and all kinds of silver and copper coins.

History Of Firearms.

The guns represent a history of the manufacture of firearms. There are horse-pistols, muzzle-loaders, Patch-and-ball rifles and silver-inlaid muskets. In addition to these there are many other varieties of relics—rattlesnake rattles, swords from Civil war battlefields, presidential campaign ballots and a sawed-off shotgun used in a Missouri train robbery.

There are so many things connected with the history of the collection that a book could be written about it, according to Mr. Cornelius. Mist of the specimens were given to him by his friends and other pieces have been obained through the correspondence with other collectors all over the United States.

DANVILLE ILL COMM NEWS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1929.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 172 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA July 25, 1932

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF THE LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ENDOWED BY THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

LINCOLN'S OFFICE EQUIPMENT

With the possible exception of Lincoln's wearing apparel nothing intimately associated with him has caused more interest among those collecting Lincoln curios than the furniture and desk pieces which were used in his activities as lawyer and president. A list of some of these curios follows:

Bookcase

The bookcase which was used by Lincoln in his Springfield, Illinois law office was in the possession of the Lincoln Memorial Collection in Chicago.

Chairs

The chair used by Lincoln in his office at Springfield, formerly in the Lambert collection, is a revolving armchair of rather crude design, and shows evidences of much use. A portrait of Lincoln has been set into the back at a comparatively recent date. This chair has been vouched for by Mr. Herndon as the chair used by Lincoln during his active partnership with him in Springfield. This was not a general office chair, but the one used by Lincoln habitually at his desk.

Another chair used by Lincoln in the law office of Lincoln and Herndon in Springfield, said to have been made by Lincoln himself although this is not certain, was presented to the Dayton Museum along with an explanatory letter by J. A. Rhinberger from Flora, Illinois under date of October 9, 1892. He says he got the chair in 1858 as Mr. Herndon did not want it in his office and when he moved from Springfield to Flora gave it to Esquire McGannon, a Springfield neighbor, because it was too heavy to move.

A hickory chair in which Lincoln used to stretch his gaunt frame when he was yet a small town lawyer in Illinois is now in the possession of the Philadelphia Historical Society.

Desks

The old wardrobe desk in which Lincoln kept his books and papers has a cupboard bookcase at the top (the doors designed to protect the books from dust). A desk space is below the shelves and three deep drawers are at the bottom, two of which are fitted with large glass knobs. The wood was cut by Lincoln, William Grady and Coleman Gaines' son. It was left to season before an old man that lived with the Gaines' made it into this desk.

A black walnut desk, said to have been used by Abraham Lincoln while he practiced law at Bloomington, Illinois, is rough hewn and unfinished as it was when acquired in the store of a second-hand dealer by the present owner's father. While this might call forth some doubt as to its authenticity it is said to have been traced from the old Court house at Bloomington. It is four feet high, half as wide and as long across the top, and has two drawers under the writing top. Held together with wooden pegs, it might have been hewn from one piece of timber so staunch is its construction.

At Bloomington Lincoln won one of his first important cases. It is believed that he bent over this desk as he prepared his defense.

A walnut desk upon which President-elect Lincoln wrote his First Inaugural address, February, 1861, is the property of a Springfield family and was on exhibition in the Centennial Memorial Building in the Illinois Historical Library.

A wild cherry desk said to have been made by the Lincolns is now in the possession of a desk company for advertising purposes.

Inkstands

This inkstand is of earthenware and originally had a series of decorations in gilt on the sides, most of which have disappeared. It is 2½ inches in height and 4¾ inches in diameter.

Until 1887 it remained in the possession of Lincoln's law partner, W. H. Herdon. It is well authenticated and was formerly in the Lambert collection.

The inkstand that Lincoln used in his law office in Springfield, Illinois was in the Lincoln Memorial Collection of Chicago.

A Wichita, Kansas girl claims to have the inkstand from which President Lincoln dipped the ink with which he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. She is the great granddaughter of a man, who was closely associated with the Lincoln family.

An inkwell three and one-half inches square and two and one-half inches deep, beautiful plate glass, with a well one and one-half inches in width and depth, has etched on one side "This inkstand was used by Abraham Lincoln while an attorney at Springfield" and on the opposite side "Used by Abraham Lincoln." It was purchased at a private auction sale by a Mechanicsburg, Illinois woman about twenty-five years ago.

A Wichita Falls, Texas family have an inkstand that tradition says belonged to Lincoln. There is a similar one in a collection in Chicago. They are about five inches in diameter and four inches tall and one was in every law office back in the fifties. This memento came from Jessie K. DuBois, a personal friend of Lincoln, and its authenticity is established by affidavits.

Paperweight

A paper weight which was on Lincoln's desk at the time of his assassination was acquired by Arthur F. Hall and presented to the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation at Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is of metal consisting of a horse mounted on a pedestal. With it came an affidavit by William H. Tisdale, orderly to President Lincoln, concerning the authenticity of the relic. It was presented to Dr. S. Neumann, Veterinary Surgeon General of the Army of the Potomac, by Maj. Stackpole, steward at the White House at the time of the death of the president and was sold by Dr. Neumann's widow.

Pens

On February 27, 1929 at the Anderson Galleries, New York, a pen was sold for $2,300. It is said to be the pen with which President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Affidavits accompanying the gold pen, which has a detachable wooden handle, say that it was given to Louis Burgdorf, White House messenger, who held the Proclamation when Lincoln signed it. It was sold by the messenger's grandson.

The announcement of the sale of the pen with which Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation brought protests from a woman of Battle Creek, Michigan, who is sure she has the original pen which was given to her grandfather by Mrs. Abraham Lincoln when they were neighbors on West Washington Boulevard in Chicago after the assassination of the President.

A third pen catalogued as that used by Lincoln in signing the Emancipation Proclamation was auctioned off in Philadelphia in 1924 for $1,000.

A fourth, also called genuine, is said to exist in the west.

Sign

The old tin sign of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon hung in the old stairway for several years after Lincoln's death but was finally taken off by an unknown relic hunter.

Table

A solid walnut table which occupies a prominent place in the law office of an attorney was once used in the office of Stuart and Edwards in Springfield, Illinois. Here Lincoln sat on the edge of this table or sometimes sat on a chair and perched his feet on the table and discussed political affairs of the day with Stuart. The present owner's father studied law in this office and while there he met Mr. Lincoln, then a distinguished attorney and member of Congress.

The table is of walnut, two and one-half feet in height and three and one-half feet in length and contains one large drawer which is almost three feet in length.

Whether or not this table later occupied a place in the office of Stuart and Lincoln has not been definitely established but it is quite likely.

An old board table and other articles of furniture in the office of Lincoln and Herndon were literally whittled to pieces and carried away in bits by admirers of Lincoln who came in pilgrimages to the room where he had worked for so many years.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1220 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA August 25, 1952

IDENTIFYING LINCOLN'S LAW OFFICES

A dingy cluttered room in a dilapidated building is usually visualized when one recalls the headquarters of Abraham Lincoln's legal activities. There is still so much confusion in the mind of the casual student as to the exact locations of the several rooms occupied during his partnership with Stuart, Logan and Herndon that an attempt will be made to orient Lincoln in his actual surroundings.

109 NORTH FIFTH STREET

Business men of Springfield, Illinois anticipating the removal of the state capital to their city began to plan the construction of buildings commensurate with the honorable position which the community was about to assume. One of these projects of considerable importance was the building in 1836 of a row of six two story brick buildings. These structures were erected on the west side of North Fifth Street with the initial structure on the northwest corner of Washington and North Fifth, and the subsequent buildings extending north from that point. Each one occupied a twenty foot frontage and had a depth of forty-four feet.

The largest investor in this enterprise was Herman L. Hoffman, a St. Louis druggist who married a daughter of Springfield's wealthiest citizen, Major Joseph Klein. Because of Hoffman's interest the row of six buildings was called Hoffman's Row and the separate units numbered one to six respectively. This improvement was called the finest business block in the city.

When the state capital was finally moved to Springfield in the winter of 1836-1837 the old court house that stood in the public square was torn down. According to an early historian of Springfield:

"The county authorities then rented a building that had been erected for a storehouse by the Hon. Ninian W. Edwards. This building at the west side of Fifth Street five doors north of Washington, was used as a court house for about ten years. It still belongs to Mr. Edwards (1871) and is now receiving some additions and undergoing some alterations and repairs in order to fit it up for a first class business house."

Although Stuart and Lincoln had been collaborating in law cases for a month or more, on April 15, 1837 there appeared in the *Sangamon Journal* this announcement:

"J. T. STUART AND A. LINCOLN

Attorneys and counsellors at law, will practice conjointly, in the Courts of this Judicial Circuit—Office No. 4 Hoffman's Row, upstairs. April 17, 1837."

It will be observed from the information on the legal card that the business address of Stuart and Lincoln was "No. 4 Hoffman's Row, upstairs," while the county court was situated on the "lower floor" at No. 5 Hoffman's Row. There is a general acceptance of the fact that the Stuart-Lincoln office was directly over the court room. This situation would imply that the law office was in reality in the building at No. 5 with an entrance to it in the No. 4 building. Later on in numbering the city streets No. 5 Hoffman Row became 109 North Fifth Street.

It is interesting to note that Abraham Lincoln's first law office was in a building owned by his future brother-in-law, Ninian Edwards, whose wife was also a kinsman of Stuart. Located as it was immediately over the county court the room would not only be a most desirable location for a law office but it was also situated in the best building block in the state capital. The building at 109 North Fifth St. was eventually removed and replaced by a structure called the Stuart Building.

108-110 NORTH FIFTH STREET

Abraham Lincoln stated with respect to his legal affiliation with Logan, "He and I were partners from the spring of 1841 to the autumn of 1844." Logan had been practicing law in Springfield since 1833 at which time he joined in partnership with William L. May. Later on Logan and Col. E. D. Baker were partners. The *Sangamon Journal* for May 14, 1841 referred to the Logan and Lincoln office as "opposite Hoffman Row" where the Stuart and Lincoln office had been located. It would appear as if the senior partner was well established as Stephen A. Logan was then considered the outstanding lawyer in the state of Illinois. Just how long Logan and Lincoln occupied this office is not definitely known.

203 SOUTH SIXTH STREET

We are positive that by February 23, 1843 Logan and Lincoln had moved to a new building at the corner of Sixth and Adams Street known as the Old Farmer's Bank Building. At the time Logan and Lincoln were tenants in this building the Post Office was situated in the structure and their business card stated: "Office over the Post Office—Third Floor." The second floor of the building was occupied at this time by the United States Court so it would appear as if Lincoln as heretofore enjoys a very advantageous spot. The building they occupied was completed in 1841 and was said to be at that time the outstanding business house in central Illinois. So once again Lincoln seems to have been situated in the finest building in the state capital city.

103 SOUTH FIFTH STREET

The Logan and Lincoln association was dissolved when Logan decided to take his own son David into partnership with him. David had been reading law in the office and also a young man, William Herndon, had been studying there. Lincoln apparently at this time set up an independent office and upon Herndon's passing the bar examination took him in as a partner. Their business card first appeared in the *Sangamon Journal* for December 30, 1847. It is the Lincoln-Herndon office that is best known to the public and which has most often been used to illustrate the humble surroundings of the future President.

By the time the Lincoln and Herndon partnership was formed Lincoln had built up a tremendous practice on the circuit and arranged temporary headquarters in several cities in the area. The one at Danville with Lamon as an associate has been given some attention. With Lincoln away from the office so much of the time it was not essential that he be housed in so fine a room as he would have desired if he were to spend much of his time in Springfield. Much emphasis is placed on the fact that the Lincoln-Herndon office was a back room on the second floor and it is true that the artist's drawings made of the room do not leave a very flattering impression when compared with the sumptuous law offices of the modern day.

Chicago Tribune
March 12, 1966

'LINCOLN ABRAHAM, LAWYER'

Springfield, Feb. 25—A letter in the Voice of the People [Feb. 22] from Reef Waldrep, of Western Illinois university, inquired how Abraham Lincoln was listed in the Springfield city directory before he left for Washington.

On page 64 of the city directory for the years 1857-58 he is listed as "Lincoln Abraham, lawyer, h ne cor Jackson and 8th." "Lindley J. F., blacksmith, bds sw cor Jefferson and 3rd" is listed above him and "LINK CHRISTIAN, [firm Williams & L.] bds es 5th, bt Jefferson and Washington" is listed below him.

On page 89 under Business Classification, Lincoln is listed under attorneys as "Herndon & Lincoln," after "Herndon & McClernand," and above "Logan S. T."

ERIC B. ANDERSON

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ACCOUNTS OF THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND PEOPLE OF THE GREAT MIDWEST

VOLUME 7 MAY — JUNE — 1969 NUMBER 3

Chicago Tribune
March 12, 1966

'LINCOLN ABRAHAM, LAWYER'

Springfield, Feb. 25—A letter in the Voice of the People [Feb. 22] from Reef Waldrep, of Western Illinois university, inquired how Abraham Lincoln was listed in the Springfield city directory before he left for Washington.

On page 64 of the city directory for the years 1857-58 he is listed as "Lincoln Abraham, lawyer, h ne cor Jackson and 8th." "Lindley J. F., blacksmith, bds sw cor Jefferson and 3rd" is listed above him and "LINK CHRISTIAN, [firm Williams & L.] bds es 5th, bt Jefferson and Washington" is listed below him.

On page 89 under Business Classification, Lincoln is listed under attorneys as "Herndon & Lincoln," after "Herndon & McClernand," and above "Logan S. T."

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VOLUME 7 MAY — JUNE — 1969 NUMBER 3

OUR COVER PICTURE

Lincoln's law office from 1843 to 1847 on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (front) showing view of the State House through window.

Abraham Lincoln moved from New Salem to the Square in Springfield. Here, in the shadow of the State House, he spent almost half of his lifetime. While in Springfield, other men and events came into Lincoln's life that were just as important as Jack Kelso, James Rutledge, a flatboat trip to New Orleans, and New Salem had been. Just as one cannot understand Lincoln's early life and leave out the background of New Salem, neither can his later life be understood without the background of the Square in Springfield. Our story highlights some of his experiences during this time.

* * * * * *

We wish to thank the Illinois State Historical Library and, in particular, Miss Margaret Flint, James Hickey and Howard Rissler for their help during our research on the "Prairie Lawyer."

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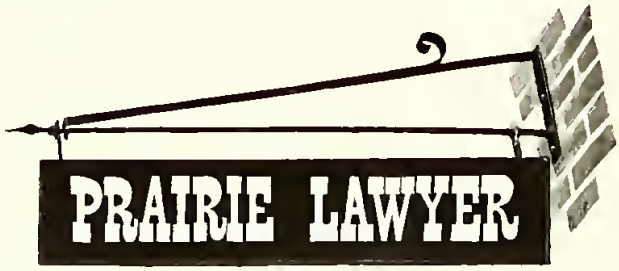


PRAIRIE LAWYER

On February 28, 1837, the issue of a permanent location for the State Capital came to the floor of the General Assembly at Vandalia. Several ballots were cast. On the fourth, Lincoln and the other members of the Sangamon County delegation burst into cheers as Springfield, finally receiving a majority vote, became the new Capital of Illinois.

The next day, March 1, 1837, Lincoln appeared before the clerk of the Illinois Supreme Court to be admitted to the bar. With his right hand upraised, he swore to "in all things faithfully execute the duties of attorney and counsellor at law."

Immediately after the General Assembly adjourned on March 6, 1837, Lincoln and the other legislators returned to Springfield. The people of Springfield, in a celebrating mood, expressed their joy with dinners, speeches, and a round of events which included burning the whipping post in the Square.

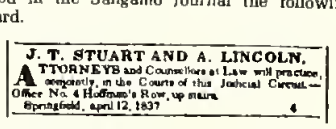
After the festivities were over, Lincoln returned to New Salem to settle his affairs and tell his friends that he would be leaving them to practice law in Springfield. A few days later, on April 15, 1837, he gathered together his two or three law books and the few pieces of clothing he possessed, stuffed them in his saddlebags, and rode into Springfield on a borrowed horse.

Lincoln made his way to the west side of the Square, tied up his horse, slipped off his saddlebags, and entered a store at 103 South Fifth Street. Tossing the saddlebags on the counter, he inquired of the young man who stepped up to wait on him the cost of some items of bedroom furniture. Joshua Speed, the young clerk and owner of the store, picked up a slate, did some figuring, and quoted a price. Lincoln, however, told him that he could not afford it. The young man, his sympathy aroused by Lincoln's gloomy, melancholy face, introduced himself and said, "I have a large room upstairs with a double bed in it which you are perfectly welcome to share with me." "Where is this room?" Lincoln asked. "There," replied Speed, pointing to a back stairway. Lincoln, without another word, slipped his saddlebags on his arm, went upstairs, and set them down on the floor. He returned and, beaming with pleasure, exclaimed, "Well, Speed, I'm moved!"

Joshua Speed, one of Lincoln's closest friends.

A sketch of Speed's store building, 103 South Fifth Street, (as it appeared about 1865).

On this very same day, April 15, 1837, there had appeared in the Sangamo Journal the following business card.



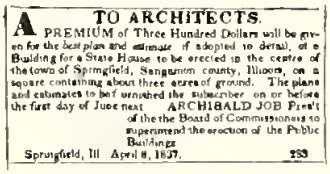
J. T. STUART AND A. LINCOLN,
ATTORNEYS and Counsellors at Law will practice, occasionally, in the Courts of this Judicial Circuit.—Office No. 4 Hoffman's Row, up stairs.
Springfield, April 12, 1837 4

How did Springfield look to Lincoln in that day? Like most prairie towns, it was built around a square. On the Springfield Square sat the Sangamon County Courthouse, a two-story brick building with a hipped roof and a cupola looking very much like an old-fashioned coffee mill without a handle. From the cupola, one could look out over the town's business houses

Statue of Lincoln with law book tn hand, located at the entrance to the restored New Salem Village. (Avard Fairhanks, sculptor)

which faced the Square, most of them one-story frame buildings and here end there a two-story brick building or e log cebin. Extending out from the Square wes the residential section. At this time, during April, the streets were quite likely to be e wallow of mud with the wheels of heevy wegons sinking in to their axles. In the summer or in dry weather, they sank es deep in dust. There were no stdewalks or street lights, and the hogs ran loose ebout town. If tbere was no moon, one could guide himself only by the dim light of candles glowing weakly from the windows.

Now that Springfield wes the new State Cepital, the townspeople enticipeted many changes. Of course, the Courthouse on the Square would be demolished to make way for the new State House, as is indicated from this notice which appeared in the same April 15th issue of the Senganio *Journal*.



TO ARCHITECTS.

A PREMIUM of Three Hundred Dollars will be given for the best plan and estimate (if adopted in detail), of a Building for a State House to be erected in the centre of the town of Springfield, Sangamon county, Illinois, on a square containing about three acres of ground. The plans and estimates to be furnished the subscriber on or before the first day of June next. ARCHIBALD JOB Pres't of the the Board of Commissioners to superintend the erection of the Public Buildings.

Springfield, Ill. April 8, 1837. 253

Springfield was, at this time, a very promising place for a young lawyer to start his prectice heceuse the town, as e State Capital, would become the location for the State Supreme Court, end the Federal District and Circuit Courts of the United Stetes.

Living at Speed's store was very convenient for Lincoln. He had only to walk out the front door, turn left, cross Weshington Street, walk past three doors, and climb the stairs et No. 4 Hoffman's Row to the law office which he shared with his first law partner, John Todd Stuart. Hoffman's Row was the name given to six new two-story hrick buildings which, at this time, were the hest office buildings in town. Although nice-appeering on the outside, the offtces were anything but pretentious on the inside.

Sketch of the Stuart and Lincoln law office building at 4 Hoffman's Row (as it appeared about 1865).

John T. Stuart, a well-known attorney, had the husiest practice in Spnngfield. He was a tall man, very pleasing and dignified; and, e Kentuckian by hirth, he was a true Southern Gentleman. Lincoln and Stuart first became acquainted while serving in the Blackhawk War. Later, Lincoln visited his office in Springfield to borrow law books. Stuart, more interested in politics than law, was ambitious to go to Congress. Therefore, he spent most of his time away from the office furthering his political career. Lincoln, es the junior partner, had to attend to practically all of the firm's business including the great burden of paper work necessary to e lew prectice in those days.

John Todd Stuart, Lincoln's first law partner, 1837-1841, a true Southern Gentleman from Kentucky who was more interested in politics than law.

The only time Lincoln probably found for relaxation or diversion wes spent in front of a large fireplace in the hack of Speed's store. Often in the evenings, the Whigs, Democrats, end others of the town gathered to talk of politics, people, and events. Here, Lincoln and Douglas probably held their first informal debate.

1836 On August 8, 1836, Lincoln was elected to the Legislature for the third time and Stuart, his partner, was elected to Congress.

1839 Lincoln's partner, John T. Stuart, left for Washington on November 2, 1839, to take his seat in Congress. Since Stuart was to be gone for about two yeers, Lincoln had full responsibility of the law practice. As Lincoln also had his legislative duties in addition to the law practice, he faced a very husy time.

1840 Sometime in the fall of 1840, Lincoln managed to take time off from his burden of work to do a little courting. On occasion he was seen about candle-lighting time walking along Second Street toward the Ninian W Edwards home on the hill at Second and Jackson streets (where the Centennial Building now stands). The ohject of his attentions was Miss Mary Todd, a sister of Mrs. Edwards with whom she was staying at the time.

1841 Lincoln's courtship continued through the early winter and up to the fateful day of January 1, 1841, when a great emotional crisis caused him great suffering and anguish. Exactly what happened is presently unknown, but a probahle guess is thet he broke his engagement to Mary Todd.

Continued on next page

Tinsley building (restoration), southwest corner of Fifth and Adams streets. Here on the third floor was Lincoln's law offices from 1843 to 1852.

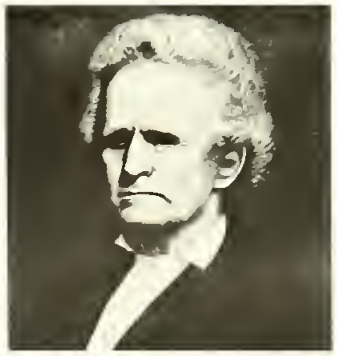
On January 13, 1841, Lincoln was absent from the Legislature because of illness. He attended a session on January 19th but appeared very gaunt and was so lacking in strength that he could not speak above a whisper.

On January 23, 1841, Lincoln wrote Stuart who was in Washington: "I fear I shall be unable to attend to any business here; and a change of scene might help me. If I could be, myself, I would rather remain at home with Judge Logan. I can write no more."

Later, after Stuart's return to Springfield from his term in Congress, they mutually agreed to terminate their partnership and on Friday, May 14, 1841, the following business card appeared in the Sangamo Journal. Lincoln had only to move across the street.

Lincoln's new partner, Stephen T. Logan, was ten years his senior. He was a small man with a craggy face, thick frizzy hair, and a shrill unpleasant voice. Utterly careless in dress, he wore a bleached cotton shirt, heavy shoes, and baggy pants. He was never known to wear a tie. Logan, however, despite his manner of dress and the handicap of his voice was the leader of the Sangamon bar at this time. There was within this great pioneer leader a feeling for the importance of the law. Therefore, he insisted on proper planning and preparation of each case, including all the detailed paper work which he personally inspected.

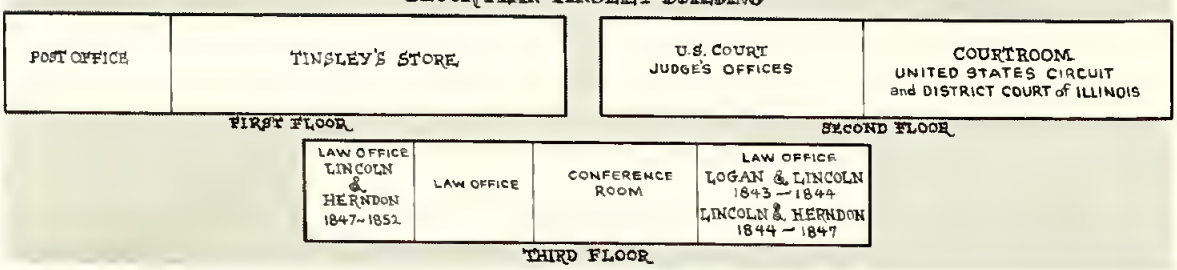
Lincoln, during his former partnership with Stuart, had been given at times to a haphazard reliance on his natural talents, especially his ready wit, rather than study and preparation. One example of Lincoln's use of ridicule early in his law career involves Judge Logan who opposed him. This incident, according to the Pekin attorney who witnessed it, occurred during Lincoln's closing argument when he suddenly exclaimed: "Why, gentlemen, just look at Judge Logan's dickey—Do you see it? Judge Logan does not even know how to put on his dickey. Look at it, see it, gentlemen of the Jury!" Lincoln won the lawsuit.



Stephen T Logan, Lincoln's second law partner, 1841-1844, a man dedicated to the law, precise and exacting

Lincoln's new senior partner probably knew his weaknesses well. He was firm and exacting but not unkind, and Lincoln probably benefitted greatly from this association.

FLOOR PLAN TINSLEY BUILDING



Joshua Speed, in the spring of 1841, sold his interest in the store and returned to his home in Louisville, Kentucky. Speed had heen Lincoln's closest friend and cnnfidant. They were ahout the same age and they easily exchanged thoughts on life and love. Due to the deep prohing of his mind during his illness, Lincoln prohably missed the conversations with Speed.

After the summer term of Circuit Court had ended, Lincoln decided to visit Speed and sometime around August 12, 1841, left for Louisville, Kentucky. He returned to Springfield around September 15th, apparently greatly improved from his illness.

1842 After Lincoln's return, he concentreted all his efforts on perfecting his law practice.

In the summer of 1842, however, Mrs. Simeon Francis, wife of the editor of the Sangamo *Journal*, heing a warm-hearted and mntherly woman, decided that Lincoln's and Miss Todd's love affair had been frustrated by Mrs Edwards. Mrs. Francis, therefore, conspired to have Miss Todd and Lincoln meet at her house. She was successful in her efforts and the secret meetings continued. During these meetings, Lincoln, Miss Todd, and her friend, Julia Jayne, wrote a series of letters poking fun at James Shields, the State Auditor. They were written in e hackwoods dialect and were signed "Rebecca." Mr. Francis, Editor of the Sangamo *Journal*, thought them clever and printed them in his paper. His readers also thought them clever, but when the third letter appeared in the Sangamo *Journal* nf September 9, 1842, Shields stormed the newspaper office demanding to know who wrote them. Mr. Francis, after several threats hy Shields, named Lincoln as the author of the Rehecca letters.

Shields immediately drove to Tremont where Lincoln was in court and challenged him to a duel. Seconds were appointed and for several weeks there was much mystery and intrigue as Lincoln's seconds and friends attempted to stop the duel. On September, 22, the duel was called off.

The excitement and danger must have hrought Mary Todd and Lincoln closer together, for they were married a few months later nn Nnvemher 4, 1842, at the Ninian Edwards home on the hill. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln took up residence at the Glohe Tevern.

1843 Now and then an important person is brought to trial which usually arouses the public es well as those of the legal profession. Such a trial involved the legality of a warrant served on the Mormon leader, Joseph Smith, hy Governor Ford at the request of the Governor of Missouri.

Jnseph Smith and his apostles arrived in town on New Year's Eve and, after attending a hall at the American House, were the sensation of Springfield. Joseph Smith's hearing was scheduled for January 4, 1843. His attorneys were Butterfield and Edwards; Judge Nathaniel Pope was on the hench.

The United States District and Circuit Courtroom, where the hearing was to take place, was on the second flonr of the Tinsley Building on the southwest corner of Sixth and Adams streets. The huilding, at this time only a year old, was the show place of Springfield.

The following is a description of how the trial opened, es told hy Issac Arnold, a Chicago Attorney.

> "The Prophet (so-called) was attended by his twelve Aposties and a large number of his followers . . The court room thronged with prominent members of the bar, and public men. Judge Pope was a gallent gentleman of the old school, end loved nothing better than to be in the midst of youth and beauty. Seats were crowded on the Iudge's platform, on both sides and bebind tbe Iudge, and an array of brilliant and beautiful ladies almost encircled the Court. Mr. Butterfield, dressed e la *Webster*, in blue dress-coat and metal buttons, witb buff vest, rose with dignity and amidst tbe most profound silence. Peusing, and running his eyes admiringly from the central figure of Iudge Pope, along the rows of lovely women on each side of him, he said: 'May it please tbe Court: I appear before you today under circumstances most novel and peculiar. I am to address tbe "Pope" (bowing to the Iudge) surrounded by angels (bowing still lower to tbe ladies), in tbe presence of tbe boly Apostles, in bebalf of tbe Prophet of the Lord.' "

Continued on next page

United States District and Circuit Courtroom, 1841-1855. Here Lincoln probably watched with interest the trial of Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, as he was tried on a warrant for his arrest issued by Governor Ford.

Lincoln no doubt watched with interest since he had had a case before Judge Pope the day before and was to have another the day after Smith's hearing.

The firm of Logan and Lincoln, about six months later, moved its office, which was across from Hoffman's Row, to a large front office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building directly over the United States District and Circuit Court Room. The move was announced by the following business card which appeared in the Sangamo Journal of July 27, 1843.

Logan & Lincoln,
ATTORNEYS and Counsellors at Law, Springfield
—Office over the post office—third story.

On August 1, 1843, Robert Todd, the Lincoln's first baby, was born, and shortly afterward they moved from the Globe Tavern to a little cottage at 214 South Fourth Street.

1844 On May 2, 1844, the Lincolns moved from the cottage to a house which they had purchased on the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson streets.

Sometime in the fall of 1844, Logan expressed to Lincoln his desire to go into partnership with his son, and, after talking it over, they agreed to end their partnership. That December, Logan moved to a small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building and set up a partnership with his son, David.

Lincoln remained in the large front office. He took into partnership Billy Herndon, a young man, nine years his junior, who had just received his license to practice. Lincoln's new partner was no stranger, for he had known Billy, as he called him, since childhood. The two worked well together; Lincoln toured the circuit while Billy stayed at home and took care of the office work

1845 For several years Lincoln had subordinated his political ambitions to others in his party. However, he had no intention of doing this forever and in the summer of 1845, he began writing letters to influential people in the party informing them of his desire to go to Congress.

William H. Herndon, Lincoln's third and last law partner, 1844-1865. Also Lincoln's biographer

1846 After much squabbling within the party, Lincoln was accepted as a candidate for Congress. On August 3, 1846, he won by a large majority over his opponent, Peter Cartwright, a Democrat and a Methodist minister.

1847 Following the election, Lincoln continued on the circuit until October 25, 1847, when he left Springfield for Washington and entered the national political scene for the first time.

Lincoln's law office, third floor (front) Tinsley Building Occupied by Logan and Lincoln, 1843-1844, and Lincoln and Herndon, 1844-1847.

Since Lincoln would ha eway from any activa law practice in Springfield for abnut two years during his tarm in Congress, Lincoln and Harndon moved from the large front office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building tn the small offica et the rear of the third floor which had formarly hean occupied hy Logan and his son, David. In Decemhar of 1847 the mova was announcad hy the following husiness card which appeared in the local paper.

Abraham Lincoln, W. H. Herndon.
LINCOLN & HERNDON, Attornies and Counsellors at Law, will practice in the Courts of Law and Chancery in this State. Dec. 1847—54

Small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (rear) occupied by Lincoln and Herndon, 1847-1852.

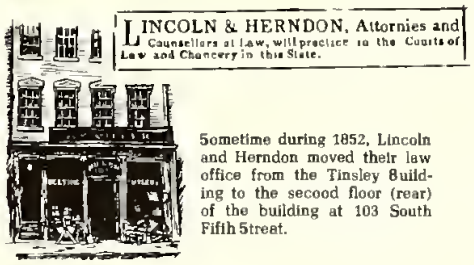
1848 Lincoln raturned to Springfield somettme around Octoher 7, 1848, made e few speeches and workad on an inventinn to lift hoats over shoals. He returnad to Washington on Dacamher 7, 1848, and took his seat in tha Thirtieth Congress.

1848 Tha Thirtieth Congress adjourned on March 4, 1849. Lincoln returnad to Springfield at tha and of March, and in June want hack to Washington in an attempt to secure an appointmant from President Taylor as Commissioner of tha Ganaral Land Office. Unsuccessful in this attempt, he returnad to Springfield.

When Lincoln arrived in Springfield somatime around July 4, 1849, ha was considered a political failure both at homa and on tha national scane. Soma nawspapers around tha State had called him a traitor and a "Banedict Arnold." It was a differant town that greeted him now than it was whan he first started his law practica. Springfield, as far as Lincoln was concernad, was now questioning his actions in Congrass. For savaral days Lincnln sat hrooding in tha littla law office at tha raar of tha Tinslay Building. More humiliating still ware tha thoughts of Douglas, Shields, and Baker with their brilliant carears, admiring puhlic, and circle of friends. Lincoln was receiving tha very valuahla disciplina of defeat: He realized that for tha tima haing, his pnlitical career had come tn an and. Ha had no choice hut to return to his law practice—hut was it really his? Harndon, hy hard work, had kapt tha husinass of tha firm. Lincoln falt it was unjust and told Herndon that he would withdraw. Billy, however, insisted that ha remain.

Lincoln again returned to his hainvad circuit and Biliy atayed at homa and took care of tha office. The Eighth Judicial Circuit covarad ahout one-fifth of tha antire araa of the State. If Lincoln was evar happy, it waa whan riding tha old Eighth Circuit or trying a casa in soma little county saat courthousa. Usually tha lawyers traveled ahout in groups from town to town. At laast a day was required for thasa journeys and oftan two or threa days ware nacessary. Tha hast saasons for travel ware spring and aarly summar whan tha prairie was grandiy heautiful with patchas of wild flowars and waving grass interspersad with dalightful grovas.

1852 Somatima during 1852, the law firm of Lincoln and Herndon was moved from tha Tinslay Building to a heck room on tha second floor at 103 South Fifth Streat. Changes hagan to he avidant in Lincoln's character aftar he bagan to devota his attention toward making himsalf a better lawyar and an enlightanad man. Ha was growing not only in stature as a lawyar hut in greatness as a man and, as was inevitahla, he was winning hack tha confidence of the people.



Sometime during 1852, Lincoln and Herndon moved their law office from the Tinsley Building to the secood floor (rear) of the building at 103 South Fifth Street.

1854 In 1854 Lincoln again reentered politics, but only to help Richard Yates of Jacksonville, in an effort to rally Whig forces, he and Stephen T. Logan agreed to run for the State Legislature. Lincoln was again defeated. Suffering daap disappointment, he returned to his law practice for another five years.

Lincoln hegan to recognize that the law had to adapt to changing times. The great advancements in science and new inventions had mede the law more complex and required a particular form of lagal knowledge in these fields. This, of course, hrougbt larger fees. Lincoln was interested in the prohlem of industry and transportation and as a rasult, was probahly Illinois' first corporation lawyer.

1858 Lincoln wes again drawn to politics, hecoming the Repuhlican candidate for United States Senator against Staphen A. Douglas, e Damocrat. The first of the great debates hatween Lincoln and Douglas was held in Ottawa, fllinois, on August 21. Despita Lincoln's untiring efforts, on Novemhar 2nd he was again defeated at the polis.

1859 Shortly aftar Lincoln's defeat hy Douglas, a faw small-town newspapers in Illinois, and even a few Repuhlican newspapers ecross the nation, hagan to speak of Lincoln as a worthy presidantial candidate. Lincoln did not personally feel qualified and attempted to return to his law practice, hut his friends succeeded in keeping him on tha political scane.

1860 On May 18, 1860, at a Repuhlican Convention in Chicago, Lincnln was nominated as candidate for tha presidancy. On Novamhar 8th, he hecama the first Repuhlican to he elacted President of the United States.

Aftar Lincoln's elactinn, the little law office at 103 Soutb Fifth Straat was so hasaiged with well-wishers, office seekers, nawspaper men, artists, and photographers that Lincnln was given a room in tha State House.

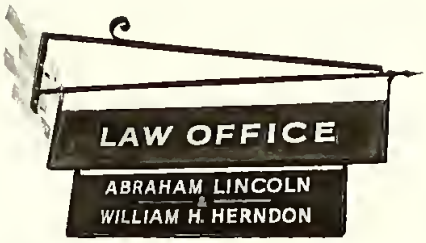
President-elect Lincoln's office in the State House where he recetved frieods, well-wishers and office seekers.

Continued on next page

1861 On February 10, 1861, the afternoon before Lincoln left for Washington and his inauguration, he stopped by to see Billy Herndon at the office. We quote from Mr. Herndon:

> "He gathered a bundle of books and papers he wished to take with him and started to go; but before leaving he made the strange request that the sign-board which swung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairway should remain. 'Let it hang there undisturbed,' he said with a significant lowering of his voice. 'Give our clients to understand that the election makes no difference in the firm of Lincoln and Herndon. If I live, I'm coming back some time and then we'll go on practicing as if nothing ever happened.' . . . I accompanied him downstairs. Grasping my hand warmly and with a fervent 'Good-bye,' he disappeared down the street and never came back to the office again."

Lincoln had just left the same building which he entered on April 15, 1837, with his saddlebags slung over his shoulder.



Lincoln Lore

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Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1579 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA September, 1969

Lincoln's Law Offices In The Tinsley Building 1843 – 1852

Editor's Note: In the preparation of this article I have relied heavily on the work of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln collection of the Illinois State Historical Library of Springfield. His research notes have proved invaluable in attempting to work out the complicated history of the Tinsley Building.

Likewise, the editor is indebted to Richard M. Phillips, the editor of *Iliniwek*, whose article "Prairie Lawyer" appeared in the May-June 1969 issue. His concise account of the three Lincoln law partnerships, the different office locations by the use of floor plans and maps and the excellent photographs with which he illustrated his article have made my task much easier in attempting to present an accurate account of the historic building.

The editor also found James E. Meyer's article "Springfield The Town That Remembers Lincoln" that was published by the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine* on December 15, 1968, most helpful in describing the furnishings and contents of the restored building.

R. G. M.

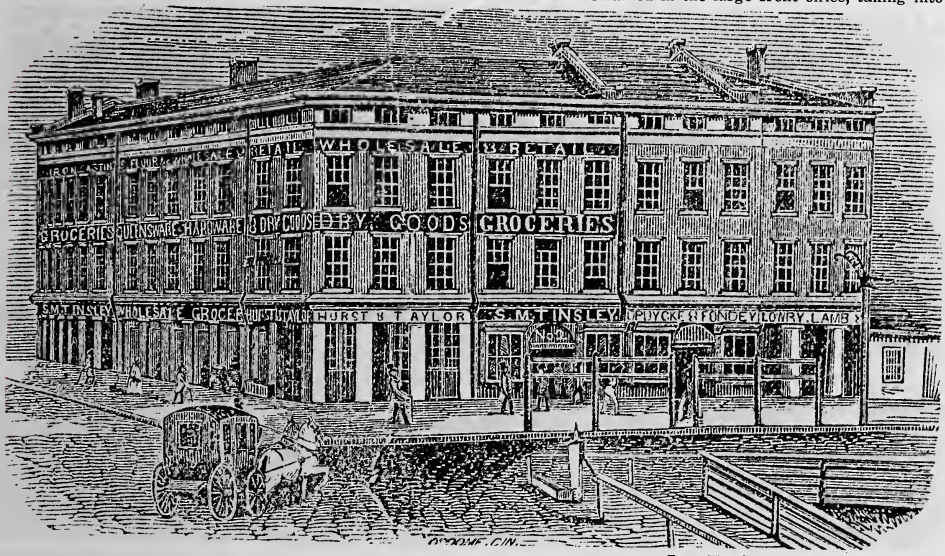
In the summer months of 1843 the law firm of Stephen T. Logan and Abraham Lincoln moved to a large office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building at Sixth and Adams Streets. Their original location had been on the east side of North Fifth Street less than one-half of a block from the Square. The present walk-up teller's windows of the Illinois National Bank mark the site. This original office was also directly across Fifth Street from the location of the former Stuart and Lincoln law office. In the Tinsley Building they probably occupied the vacated Shields and Conkling office. Although directly over the United States District and Circuit Court Room on the second floor, their advertising card in the local papers stated they were over the post office which was located on the first floor. The Tinsley Building at this time was only about three years old and was considered a show place in Springfield.

The firm's new location was announced by the following business card which appeared in the *Sangamo Journal* of July 27, 1843:

Logan & Lincoln
Attorneys and Councellors at Law, Springfield
— Office over the Post Office — third story

This law-partnership, originating in 1841, was short lived because Logan wished to form an association with his son, David. In December 1844 Logan moved to a smaller office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building, in order to practice law with his son.

Lincoln remained in the large front office, taking into



From The Illinois State Historical Library

The Tinsley Building (Circa 1850) taken from a woodcut which appeared in the *Illinois State Journal* of June 1, 1850.

From Iliniwek, *May-June, 1969*

The restored Tinsley Building located on the southwest corner of Fifth and Adams Streets. Here on the third floor was Lincoln's law office from 1843 to 1852.

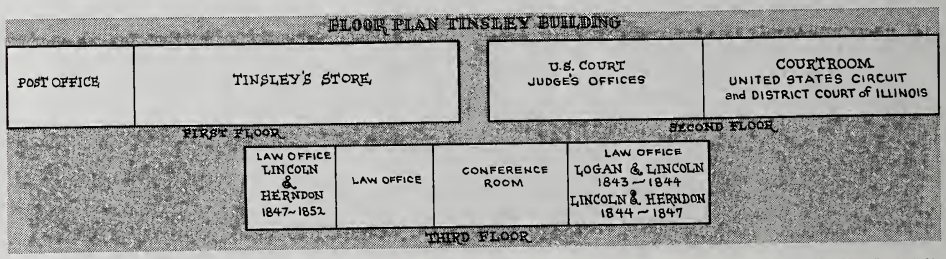
partnership William H. Herndon, a young man nine years his junior, who had just received his license to practice. Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office. "Billy" as Lincoln always called him stayed in Springfield and took care of the office while Lincoln toured the circuit. This arrangement was ideal, and the two lawyers worked well together. During the ensuing years Lincoln was also active in politics, and on August 3, 1846 he was elected to Congress. He rode the circuit, however, until the middle of October 1847, when he made preparations to travel to Washington, D.C. to serve his one term in Congress.

Since Lincoln's absence from an active law practice would curtail the firm's income, their office was moved from the large front area of the third floor of the Tinsley Building to a small office at the rear of the third floor, which had once been occupied by Logan and his son David. Their business card appeared as follows in the local papers:

Abraham Lincoln W. H. Herndon
Lincoln & Herndon, Attorneys and
Councellors at Law, will practice in the Courts
of Law and Chancery in the State Dec. 1847

When one attempts to define the precise location of the Lincoln-Herndon law office during the entire period of the firm's existence, there is some confusion. This is due to the fact that several months' issues of the *Illinois State Journal* are missing which would have shown a change, if they had moved, in their business card. While it is impossible to document their location in the Tinsley Building after August 23, 1849 it is generally believed that they remained there until October 1852. By October 1, 1852 their office was over the McGraw & Buchanan store on the west side of the Square, in the very same back room on the second floor vacated by W. I. Ferguson, Attorney. The *Illinois State Register*, September 25th and 27th, 1852 reported that Ferguson left Springfield for permanent residence in Texas.

Today it is difficult to locate the site of the McGraw



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Floor plan of the Tinsley Building drawn by Richard M. Phillips, editor of *Iliniwek*.

& Buchanan store on the west side of the Square. Perhaps it was in the same building as Lincoln's last (Fifth Street) law office, as there is no tradition that Lincoln was ever in any other location on the west side of the Square.

If the assumption is correct that the McGraw & Buchanan store was in the same building as the "Old Speed Store" then Lincoln was in the same building which he had entered on April 15, 1837 when he was about to begin the practice of law with John T. Stuart. Joshua Fry Speed was the partner in the James Bell & Company store located on the first floor of the building and Lincoln occupied a room with Speed on the front second floor. The Lincoln & Herndon law office was in a back room of the same second floor.

Today there are two markers on the Myers Brothers Store which gives the impression that Speed's store was next to the building in which Lincoln & Herndon had their law office. However, they were in the same building.

Lincoln is reported to have visited his Fifth Street law office for the last time on February 10, 1861. According to Herndon (Herndon & Weik, 1892 ed., II, 192-94) the President-elect made "the strange request that the sign-board which swung on its rusty hinges at the foot of the stairway should remain. 'Let it hang there undisturbed,' he said, with a significant lowering of his voice."

A sign hangs at the foot of the Tinsley Building stairway today bearing the words "Law Office — Abraham Lincoln & William H. Herndon." It is there because the building has been restored just as it was in 1843, when Lincoln moved into the top floor, front office. The original walls, floors, ceiling still stand; only the furnishings have been added.

The exterior walls of the second and third floors have been sand-blasted to restore the bricks' original color and texture so that the building appears today as if it were new. The first floor has been largely rebuilt, using 125 year old brick to match the floors above. An attractive store with 19th century fixtures occupies a portion of the first floor. Also, an old reconstructed post office adds to the attractiveness of the interior of the first floor.

The purchase and restoration of the Tinsley Building was instituted by enterprising Springfield citizens who were eager to add another historical facet to their city's splendid heritage. The restoration project was a difficult historical problem; however, with the expert knowledge of James T. Hickey, the curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, the project was undertaken.

Hickey made a detailed study of all the original deeds to the property, as well as the mercantile and professional advertisements in the local papers in order to determine the many occupants of the building from the date of its construction in 1840 to the present day. A comprehensive study of the history of the building was the result of this project.

Exciting discoveries were also made of old letters, newspapers of the 1840s, account books, journals, Federal Court documents, documents of the U.S. Provost Marshal during the Civil War, business catalogues, almanacs, land records when John Taylor (S. M. Tinsley's father-in-law) was receiver of the land office in Springfield, Lincoln items and other memorabilia under the attic floor (over the Lincoln-Herndon Offices) of the building. Around the turn of the century six wagonloads of old paper were hauled away from the attic or fourth floor of the building and burned. This was done by S. J. Hanes, and his son, Murray S. Hanes, witnessed the event.

The architectural design of the restored Tinsley Building is more "prairie classic" than Georgian, and its furnishing are almost stark in their simplicity. Lincoln's offices, "with layers of dust" and papers scattered about, gives the appearance of "general dishevelment that indicated the active law practice he had." The over-all appearance of the building's interior, which includes offices other than Lincoln's, and the Federal Court room, is one of disorder. According to the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, December 15, 1968:

> "Notices of sales, political rallies, bankruptcies were tacked to the walls. Boxes for wood stood about. Sandfilled boxes for spittoons were as often missed as hit. The place jumped with legal, political and social activity."

It has been the aim of the promoters to make the law offices and courts "seem as if they were still in use." The desired historical atmosphere has been achieved with the attic papers (worth thousands of dollars) scattered through the desks and on the tables and chairs.

This new Springfield shrine is open to the public

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Lincoln's law office, third floor (front) of Tinsley Building. Occupied by Logan & Lincoln 1843-1844, and Lincoln & Herndon 1844-1847.

with a sight and sound program, with personnel to answer questions, with a museum of documents and with elevator service available in an adjoining building. It requires some thirty minutes to make the tour and one should allow more time if possible because it is well worth all the time you can devote to it. Adults are charged 50¢, children 25¢ and families may enter upon payment of $1.25.

What would S. M. Tinsley think of his building today? Certainly he would be pleased with the restoration. There is no photograph of Tinsley and his is a sad story. He was born in Virginia. He married Hannah Taylor in 1833, and they had eleven children. The next year following his marriage he formed a business partnership with his father-in-law, John Taylor, which lasted until 1837.

The E. D. Taylor who became his partner in 1841 was not a blood relative of his father-in-law but became a relative when he married Margaret Taylor, Mrs. Tinsley's sister. Charles R. Hurst who was also a business partner of Tinsley, married Ann Taylor, another sister of Mrs. Tinsley. Hurst got into business first by buying out Joshua F. Speed when he returned to Kentucky.

S. M. Tinsley at one time had a fine home and had erected a large Metropolitan Hall. He was a director of Mechanics & Farmers Bank in 1852, opened a large lumber yard in 1856 and a large flour mill in 1859; but after that it is apparent that he ran into personal and financial trouble.

His wife died February 23, 1867, at age 56, and her funeral was held at St. Paul's. Tinsley seems to have then closed or lost his home, because on March 25, 1868, when a fire destroyed the Metropolitan Hall which he no longer owned and which had been converted into a mill, the *Illinois State Register* reported that Mr. Tinsley, the former owner, had a sleeping room in the building and nearly lost his life in the fire.

The next year (1869) Tinsley died at 62 years of age and was buried in the Hutchinson Cemetery, but his remains were moved to the Oak Ridge Cemetery in November 1870 and buried in an unmarked grave in the lot of his brother-in-law, E. D. Taylor. Tinsley left no estate to probate, and none of his eleven children seem to have resided in Springfield at the time of his death.

Is it not ironic that the restored structure on Sixth and Adams Streets is to be called The Lincoln-Herndon Building? Would not the name Tinsley Building, with its sign of "Lincoln & Herndon" swinging on its rusty hinges (they will get rusty) at the doorway on Sixth Street be more appropriate?

History of The Tinsley Building

July 7, 1840
S. M. Tinsley bought a lot (Sixth at Adams) from Garrett Elkin, Thomas & Isaac Constant and William F. Elkin. Building may have been under construction.

December 25, 1840
First part of building occupied.

January 27, 1841
A notice in *Journal* stated that an art exhibit by Wilkins & Stevenson would be held in the building.

March 5, 1841
S. M. Tinsley & Co. (S. M. Tinsley, Wm. M. Cowgell and E. D. Taylor) removed their entire stock of goods to the new four story brick building, on the southeast corner of the public square, directly opposite the American House. (*Register* March 5, 1841) S. M. Tinsley & Company were retail merchants. Opdycke, Tinsley & Company were in the wholesale business.

1841
Between January 1841 and August 1843, the U. S. Post Office occupied the back of the first floor. U.S. Court moved to the second floor.

March 19, 1841
The *Register* reported that Shields & Conkling had moved into the new Tinsley Building. They continued to advertise at this location until May 19, 1843.

July 28, 1842
Journal carried advertisement of S. M. Tinsley offering the store room for rent recently occupied by Opdycke, Tinsley & Co.

1843
Between June 15, 1843 and August 31, 1843 Logan and Lincoln moved into Tinsley Building, probably occupying the vacated Shields & Conkling office.

April 4, 1844
The *Journal* reported that E. D. Baker and James H. Matheny had an office on the third floor. They vacated the office in December, 1845.

August 28, 1844
David Logan moved his office to the third floor over the post office. He moved to a new location on September 10, 1847.

December, 1844
Logan & Lincoln partnership ended. Logan wished to take son David as partner. David was already in the building on the same floor. Lincoln took as his partner William H. Herndon, a former student in the Logan & Lincoln firm.

February, 1847
A. T. Bledsoe moved into office over the post office.

February 17, 1849
Tinsley and Charles R. Hurst dissolved partnership. Hurst remained in building.

March 23, 1849
Hurst took in E. J. Taylor as partner, and firm became Hurst & Taylor. Tinsley moved to building in center block on south side of square.

July 30, 1849
A. Campbell advertised office in Tinsley Building.

September 17, 1849
Tinsley moved back to Tinsley Building to the 2nd 20 foot front, next to Hurst & Taylor on corner. He called his new store "Tinsley's No. 2."

August 23, and 29, 1849
According to *Daily Journal* and *Weekly Journal* Lincoln & Herndon were still listed on the third story over the post office.

August 24, 1849
S. T. Logan had new office west of Hawley & Loose store. This was one and one-half blocks west of Tinsley Building.

August 27, 1849
Daily Journal carried statement that William Pope, Clerk of the United States District and Circuit Courts had office over post office in the Tinsley Building.

October 13, 1849
Advertisement in *Register* carried announcement that Tinsley had a tailoring establishment on the second floor of Store No. 2.

(To be continued in the October issue)

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Small office on the third floor of the Tinsley Building (rear) occupied by Lincoln & Herndon, 1847-1852.